

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a photostimulatable unit;
a housing to securely hold the photostimulatable unit; and
a cover movably coupled to the housing to move between a first position concealing the photostimulatable unit and a second position revealing the photostimulatable unit.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover is a sliding panel.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the photostimulatable unit is a computed radiography plate.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
an attachment mechanism coupled to the housing to removably couple the housing to a scanning device.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the attachment mechanism is one of a clip, a hook, a latch and a tongue and groove.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a release mechanism coupled to the housing to release the cover from the first position.
7. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the computed radiography plate has a concave surface.
8. A system comprising:
a scanning device; and
a cassette removably coupled to the scanning device comprising a housing, a photostimulatable unit securely coupled to the housing and a cover movably coupled to the housing to move between a

first position concealing the photostimulatable unit in the housing and a second position revealing the photostimulatable unit.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the scanning device comprises an erasing device.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the scanning device comprises a chamber to protect the photostimulatable unit from ambient energy sources when exposed.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the photostimulatable unit is a computed radiography plate.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the scanning device and cassette have a complementing interconnection mechanism.

13. A method comprising:
revealing a photostimulatable unit to a scanning device
without decoupling the photostimulatable unit from a cassette;
stimulating the photostimulatable unit;
scanning the activated photostimulatable unit; and
erasing the photostimulatable unit.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
closing the cassette to return the photostimulatable unit to a concealed position.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the photostimulatable unit is a computed radiography plate.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
unlocking a cover of the cassette.